

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims listing replaces all prior listings present in this application.

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for aligning [[a]] an entire stack of flexible sheets resting on a transport substrate , with said transport substrate, having wherein an outer lower edge and having a portion of said entire stack is projecting laterally past at least one of the edges edge of said transport substrate , the apparatus comprising:

an aligning element shiftable horizontally toward and away from the one edge of the transport substrate and having a face of said aligning element directed toward the stack [[:]] and including a slip-preventing layer on the face of said aligning element in a region corresponding to said outer lower edge of said stack ; and means for shifting wherein when the aligning element is shifted horizontally toward the stack and substrate edge, said slip preventing layer engages and supports for engaging the projecting outer lower edge portion of the stack and pushing same pushes the entire stack inward on the transport substrate thereby altering the alignment of said entire stack with respect to said transport substrate to a position lying on or inward of the outer edge without downwardly bending or deflecting the flexible sheets that form said outer lower edge of said entire stack.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus defined in claim 14 wherein the slip preventing layer is resilient.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus defined in claim 15 wherein the slip preventing layer is made of an elastomer.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus defined in claim 14 wherein the aligning element has an upper and a lower part.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus defined in claim 17 wherein the upper and lower part are joined together at a nonplanar interface.
19. An apparatus for aligning [[a]] an entire stack of flexible sheets resting on a transport substrate with respect to said transport substrate, said entire stack having an outer lower edge and having a portion projecting laterally past at least one of the edges of said transport substrate, the apparatus comprising:

an aligning element shiftable horizontally toward and away from the one edge of the transport substrate, said aligning element including a member on a face of said aligning element directed toward said transport substrate, said member being, a member on the aligning element engageable under the stack; and means for shifting wherein when the aligning element is shifted horizontally toward the stack and fitting the member engages and fits under the projecting portion of said stack to support same while and pushing the projecting sheets entire stack of flexible sheets inward on the transport substrate to a newly aligned position on said transport substrate lying on or inward of the outer edge without downwardly bending or deflecting the flexible sheets that form the projecting portion of said stack.
20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus defined in claim 19 wherein the aligning element has a horizontal surface portion generally level with an upper surface of the transport substrate.
21. A method of aligning [[a]] an entire stack of flexible sheets lying on a transport substrate having an outer edge, wherein a lowermost outer edge portion of the stack is projecting laterally past one of the edges of said transport substrate, the method using an aligning element, and comprising the steps of:

pressing a nonslip surface of [[an]] said aligning element against the laterally projecting lowermost outer edge portion of said entire stack of flexible sheets in at least to the outer edge ;
engaging and supporting said lowermost outer edge portion of said stack with said nonslip surface and preventing deflection of said lowermost edge, and shifting said entire stack with respect to said transport substrate by movement of said aligning element without downward bending of the flexible sheets occurring while pushing the portion in.

22. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 21, further comprising the a step before preceding the pressing step, wherein the stabilizing element against the laterally projecting portion of: aligning the said transport substrate relative to the stabilizing aligning element occurs.
23. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 21, further comprising the step of reducing friction between a lowermost sheet of the stack and a support surface of the transport substrate on which it rests.
24. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 23 wherein friction is reduced by providing a low-friction ~~fill~~ layer between the lowermost sheet and the upper surface.
25. (Previously Presented) A method defined in claim 23 wherein friction is reduced by coating the upper surface with a lubricant.
26. (Currently Amended) A method of aligning [[a]] an entire stack of flexible sheets on a transport substrate having an outer lower edge, a portion of the stack projecting laterally past one of the outer lower edge[[s]] of said transport substrate, the method comprising the steps of:
engaging a support member of an aligning element including a face member having a member capable of engaging underneath the laterally projecting

portion of the stack so as to support said laterally projecting edge portion, and pushing the aligning element and the laterally projecting portion in at least to the outer edge of said transport substrate without downwardly bending the laterally projecting sheets.